

Job overview

To become a Biomedical Scientist you need to be a good leader and work well under pressure. You will have to work quickly to analyse blood samples and organs. You would work in a hospital lab with a Transfusion Specialist and be linked to the pathologists and the pathology lab. You may have to work on a late shift and when you are on shift you will be constantly on-call.

Qualifications and Salaries

To become a Biomedical Scientist you need to have specific qualifications which will allow you to have a career in this area of work.

It is possible to become a Biomedical Scientist if you don’t have a biomedical sciences degree but do have a degree in another related subject, such as: Anatomy and physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, immunology or medical microbiology.

The minimum entry levels are 3A’s at A2 level with a B at AS-level. These must be Chemistry and Biology and preferably Mathematics at A2.

Mathematics is needed with least a B at AS if it is not offered at A2. Candidates who have taken Maths at A2 are required to get a B in any other AS-level.

Salaries are based on the Agenda for Change Pay Rates. When biomedical scientists start (Band 5) they’re paid £21,176 - £27,625 per year. They can then go up to team leader or specialist roles where (Band 6) they’re paid £25,528 - £34,189 per year.

The range of salaries at a high level with experience like for a team manager or advanced practitioner, (Band 7), gets £30,460 - £40,157 per year. Higher salaries may be paid after this they can progress.

A day in the life of a Biomedical Scientist

8pm

You have just got to the hospital to start the night shift, testing blood samples from the hospitals patients. You meet with your colleague, who seems pleased to see you. You will be on-call, always ready to test urgent blood samples from patients in Accident and Emergency.

8.15pm

You start your shift by checking the automated analysers; they must be working properly to ensure that the test results are accurate and correctly documented.

8.40pm

Your on-call bleep sounds, telling you to contact A & E about some blood samples. They are from a patient with suspected meningitis. You make your way to the Pathology reception, where the blood samples are. Then you set to work on the sample, carefully separating the serum from the blood cells and putting it in the analyser.

9pm

You have now tested all the blood and have moved on to a road traffic accident (RTA). The victim has been given an ID because they do not know his name. The doctors need the blood samples quickly so they have called in the transfusion specialist as well. You and the transfusion specialist work quickly to analyse the blood.

10pm

The shift is about to end and the next biomedical scientist has just arrived. You greet them then explain the verdict on the current patients. Then you go home and have a nice cup of warm coffee.